

A graduate of Alameda High School, SSG Fogarty entered the military in 2003 and his first deployment was in January of 2005. His tragic and untimely death occurred after eight years and three months of service to his country, and only a month after his arrival in Afghanistan. He had served two previous tours in Iraq. Before being deployed, SSG Fogarty was a military recruiter. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska.

SSG Fogarty was an accomplished soldier. His military awards include: 3 Army Commendation Medals, 2 Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, 2 Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat and Special Skill Badge, Basic Marksmanship Qual Badge—Bar, Weapon: Rifle (Inscription: Rifle), Expert, Parachutist Badge, Basic, U.S. Army Recruiter Identification Badge, Gold, and Overseas Service Bar.

It is because of the commitment of truly brave individuals like SSG Fogarty that our Nation can enjoy the freedoms that we are all afforded. It takes an exceptional man to give his life for the betterment of his country, and SSG Fogarty was a truly exceptional man.

HUNTER FRITZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hunter Fritz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Hunter Fritz is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hunter Fritz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Hunter Fritz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU OF TAIWAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou on his inaugu-

ration to his second term as the leader of The Republic of China (Taiwan).

Back in January of this year, the people of Taiwan reelected President Ma Ying-jeou and on May 20th he will have his second inauguration. President Ma has worked hard to maintain a peaceful relationship with China and his efforts must be recognized. The United States deeply appreciates his efforts to keep the peace, promoting stability in an important region.

Over his first term, President Ma worked with the United States to continue Taiwan's longstanding security partnership with the United States, requesting to purchase and U.S. defense systems. I and my colleagues in Congress remain strong supporters of The Taiwan Relations Act, which spells out the relationship between the United States and Taiwan, and is critical to the peace and prosperity of the region.

President Ma achieved acceptance from the World Health Organization for Taiwan to observe at the World Health Assembly, a significant step forward for Taiwan's international standing, and for the health of the people of the East-Asian and Pacific region. We should work to encourage Taiwan's participation in participate in other international organizations such as the United Nations' International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

I would also like to note that this also marks the 10th anniversary of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, of which I have been a proud member for years.

President Ma has diligently maintained peace and stability and we look forward to his future term as it provides an opportunity to achieve even greater accomplishments for the people of Taiwan and further strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNION BAPTIST CHURCH IN ALTON, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the Union Baptist Church in Alton, Illinois.

In the first half of the 19th Century, Alton, Illinois had developed as a major stop on the Underground Railroad as slaves came north in search of their freedom. It was a small group of these former slaves, some having arrived via the Underground Railroad and some having previously been freed, that gathered to form a Baptist Church in Alton.

The group organized as the African Mission Freedmen. In 1837, the same year that the City of Alton was incorporated and also the same year that the famed abolitionist journalist, Elijah Lovejoy, was killed, the Union Baptist Church was founded. The first pastor was Rev. John Livingston and one of the founding members, John Anderson, had worked as a pressman for Elijah Lovejoy at The Alton Observer.

As the church congregation grew, a two-story building was constructed in 1854, with

Union Baptist Church meeting on the second floor and the first African-American school in Alton using the first floor.

The church was forced to sell the building in the later years of the 19th Century and went back to meeting in congregation homes. In the early 1900's a new church was built.

The 175 year history of Union Baptist Church has seen its membership go through periods of decline, followed by resurgence. Throughout those years, however, the spirit of its founders, who came searching for freedom and a better life, has sustained the church and kept it thriving as a place of worship up to today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 175th Anniversary of the Union Baptist Church and to wish the congregation the best for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO KAYLA DE WEERD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Kayla De Weerd, a 14-year-old 4-H'er of Hull, Iowa, who has been named the state's top high school youth volunteer for 2012 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is our country's largest youth recognition program based entirely on volunteer community service. Since 1995, 345,000 American youths have participated in this program, with only 102 state honorees chosen each year. Kayla's path to this prestigious award began with her efforts through Reach Out Iowa, a federally funded grant that supports young people who benefit their local communities through service.

To accomplish this goal, Kayla started a nutrition and physical activity program at her junior high school. Kayla gave presentations to her fellow classmates warning of the dangers of obesity and how to live a responsible, healthy lifestyle to avoid the long-term consequences of inactivity. In addition to arming her peers in the fight against obesity, Kayla also educated others to effectively implement similar programs in more schools across her community. Kayla and her mother, Deb, traveled to Washington D.C. earlier this week to accept this great honor.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Miss De Weerd for her sincere dedication to positively impact the lives of others in her community and beyond. Kayla's commitment to a cause greater than herself is a testament to the high-quality character and unwavering work ethic instilled in Iowans both young and old. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the United States Congress in congratulating Kayla, thanking her supportive family, and thanking all of those involved in this wonderful project for their life-changing efforts. Thank you.